GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7422
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2000
TELEPHONE REGISTRATION FEES IN RURAL AREAS
HARIBHAU MAHALE

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to reduce registration fees, telephone call charges and rentals for rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the telephone services in the rural areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI. TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) & (b). The Government of India did not increase the tariffs for telephone call charges and rental in rural areas despite steep increase notified by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India in its tariff order of 1999. In addition, Government has granted flexibility to field units to give 50% concession in registration charges of Non-OYT telephones inrural/urban areas during festival season/ special occasions on merits of each case.

(c)The Government has taken following steps to improve the telecommunications services in the rural areas: All rural exchanges have been converted to electronic exchanges. To improve the STD services, reliable transmission media is being provided progressively. Telecommunications services will be provided in all the villages by 2002. Induction of new Technologies like WILL & C-DoT/PMP is being planned for providing VPTs and meeting scattered demand of telephones in the rural areas. Satellite based technology is proposed to be used to provide VPTs in far flung inaccessible areas of the Country.